



Canadian Environmental
Assessment Agency

Agence canadienne
d'évaluation environnementale

Government
Publications

CAI
EP150
-1999
R21

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REVIEW OF THE CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT

EXAMEN DE LA LOI CANADIENNE SUR L'ÉVALUATION ENVIRONNEMENTALE



Canada





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FACT SHEET

CAI
EP150
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REVIEW OF THE CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT

Discussion Paper for Public Consultation

To help promote a healthy environment and economy through sustainable development, the Government of Canada proclaimed the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* in January 1995.

The Act ensures that the environmental effects of a project receive careful consideration early in the project cycle, and provides opportunities for public participation in the environmental assessment process.

Together with its regulations, the Act applies to projects for which the federal government has decision-making authority – whether it is a proponent, land manager, the source of funding or the regulator.

Section 72(1) of the Act calls for “a comprehensive review of the provisions and operation” to be undertaken by the Minister of Environment five years after its coming into force.

The review will comprise several elements, including an interactive web site, to effectively provide information and obtain the views of all citizens in urban and rural Canada and national public consultation meetings to be held in 19 cities across Canada.

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act

Since 1995...

- **More than 25,000 federal environmental assessments have been conducted, 99% of which were at the screening level.**
- **46 proposed projects have undergone a comprehensive study (23 of these studies were still underway at the end of 1999).**
- **Five projects have undergone full review by a panel and another four panel reviews were underway at the end of 1999.**

Canada



Consultation sessions will allow interested individuals, organizations and government agencies from across the country to have their say in the future of the Act and its accompanying regulations and policies.

In preparation for the first full review of the Act, the Minister has released a discussion paper. It distills background studies as well as input from federal

departments, the provinces/territories, Aboriginal and environmental organizations, and industry associations regarding their experience with the Act.

This paper is intended to serve as the basis for a broad public consultation exercise. All concerns and suggestions about the Act and its operation will be heard and considered.

The consultation sessions will be held starting on January 31 through to March 15, 2000, and will be facilitated by an independent contractor who will also prepare a report to the Minister. That report, along with pertinent information provided to the Agency on the web site, will be considered by the Minister in preparing his report to Parliament outlining his improvements to the Act.

Some of the options to improve the Act are grouped under three main themes in the discussion document.

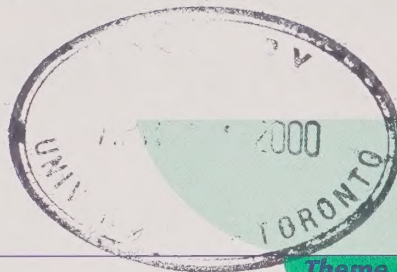
THEMES

Theme #1

Refining the environmental assessment process to make it more predictable, consistent and timely.

Issues and Options for Discussion

- Co-ordination and harmonization of activities within and across jurisdictions, including Aboriginal governments, to ensure that timely environmental assessments are completed.
- Streamlining procedures to reduce the need for assessing some of the approximately 6,000 projects brought forward each year. For instance, routine projects (such as the renovation of a community dock) usually would have an insignificant effect on the environment.
- Consideration of timelines so as to improve the efficiency and clarification of definitions and to provide more consistent interpretation of the Act.
- The use of environmental assessment as a planning tool earlier in a project's cycle to reduce the time required for a review.
- The appropriate application of the Act to activities and projects outside Canada.

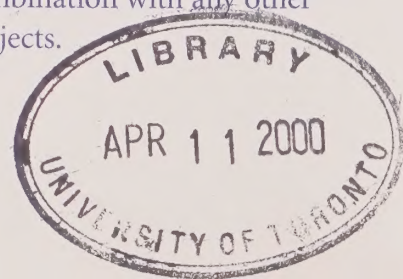


Theme #2

Finding ways to further the quality of environmental assessments.

Issues and Options for Discussion

- Extending coverage of the Act to include projects on federal lands leased to third parties; appropriate Crown Corporations; and federally financed projects on Aboriginal lands.
- Improved means of addressing cumulative environmental effects that are likely to result from a proposed project in combination with any other projects.



Meetings will be held in 19 cities across Canada:

Ottawa ON January 31, 2000	Iqaluit NT February 17, 2000	Charlottetown PEI March 6, 2000
Victoria BC February 1, 2000	Thunder Bay ON February 21, 2000	St. John's NF March 7, 2000
Vancouver BC February 2, 2000	Toronto ON February 22, 2000	Fredericton NB March 8, 2000
Calgary AB February 4, 2000	Regina SK February 28, 2000	Montreal QC March 9, 2000
Edmonton AB February 7, 2000	Saskatoon SK February 29, 2000	Halifax NS March 13, 2000
Whitehorse YT February 9, 2000	Winnipeg MB March 2, 2000	Quebec City QC March 15, 2000
Yellowknife NWT February 15, 2000		

Theme #3

improve mental

Strengthening opportunities for participation, and expanding access to environmental assessment information.

sion

- The development of guidelines on proper follow-up once an environmental assessment has been completed. The goal is to improve the quality of assessments and ensure long-term environmental protection.
- Establishing measures that will strengthen monitoring and compliance, perhaps through a quality assurance program across federal departments.

Issues and Options for Discussion

- The possible development of criteria for determining projects which would benefit from public consultation. Some projects may deserve a full public airing while other, more routine projects, might need only the posting of basic information.
- Improved means of consultation with Aboriginal peoples.
- Continued discussion on the importance and challenges of considering traditional ecological knowledge.
- The exploration of communications technologies to provide the public with additional avenues for accessing information related to environmental assessments.



*The **Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency** reports to the Minister of Environment, but operates independently of all federal departments and other agencies, including Environment Canada.*

Additional information on the Agency, the **Canadian Environmental Assessment Act**, the **discussion paper** and **cross-Canada consultations** can be found on the Agency's web site at: **www.ceaa.gc.ca**

Or call:

Jim Clarke
Director, Legislative
and Regulatory Affairs
(819) 997-2253

CAI
EP150
-1999
R21

News Release

MINISTER ANDERSON LAUNCHES REVIEW OF CANADA'S ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT

December 14, 1999, Ottawa — Minister of Environment, David Anderson today launched a review of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* – the first step in the federal government's response to a section in the legislation that calls for "a comprehensive review of the [Act's] provisions and operation" to be undertaken by the Minister five years after its coming into force.

"Our experience in applying the Act to up to 6,000 projects annually has been generally positive," Anderson said. "Now, five years later, the time has come to take a close look at how well the Act has really been working and to identify areas for improvement."

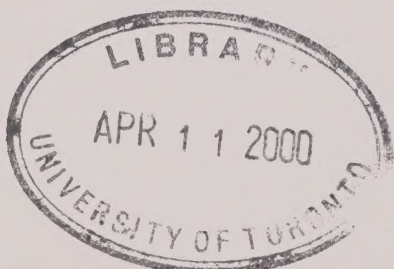
The review will comprise several elements, including an interactive web site, to effectively provide information and obtain the views of all citizens in urban and rural Canada, and national public consultation meetings, to be held in 19 centres across Canada.

In preparation for the first full review of the Act, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency has prepared *A Review of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act: A Discussion Paper for Public Consultation*. It distills background studies as well as input from federal departments, the provinces/territories, Aboriginal and environmental organizations, and industry associations regarding their experience with the Act.

The paper is intended to serve as the basis for a broad public consultation exercise. All concerns and suggestions about the Act and its operation will be heard and considered. The paper sets out options for further strengthening the Act, implementing efficiencies, and clarifying areas that may be seen as unnecessarily complex.

The *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* came into force in January 1995. The Act itself requires that the review commence no later than January 2000.

The legislation and its regulations apply to projects for which the federal government has decision-making authority – whether it is a proponent, land manager, the source of funding or the regulator. Since the Act came into force, more than 25,000 environmental assessments have been completed.



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“The government has a duty to consider environmental effects when making decisions,” said Anderson. “It’s our job to promote sustainable development, avoid significant adverse environmental effects, and provide opportunities for public participation in project planning.”

The goal is to ensure that the environmental effects of a proposed activity receive careful consideration. At the same time, the Act gives the public an opportunity to participate in the environmental assessment process.

The upcoming consultations will allow individuals, organizations and government agencies from across the country to have their say in the future of the Act and its accompanying regulations and policies. The consultation sessions will be held starting on January 31 through to March 15, 2000, and will be facilitated by an independent contractor who will also prepare a report to the Minister. That report, along with pertinent information provided to the Agency on the web site, will be considered by the Minister in preparing his report to Parliament outlining his improvements to the Act.

The consultation sessions are open to any Canadian wishing to make a presentation. Pre-registration is encouraged. Alternatively, Canadians may submit their comments to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency by letter, facsimile or via the Internet by March 31, 2000.

Meetings will be held in:

Ottawa ON January 31, 2000	Victoria BC February 1, 2000	Vancouver BC February 2, 2000
Calgary AB February 4, 2000	Edmonton AB February 7, 2000	Whitehorse YT February 9, 2000
Yellowknife NT February 15, 2000	Iqaluit NT February 17, 2000	Thunder Bay ON February 21, 2000
Toronto ON February 22, 2000	Regina SK February 28, 2000	Saskatoon SK February 29, 2000
Winnipeg MB March 2, 2000	Charlottetown PE March 6, 2000	St. John’s NF March 7, 2000
Fredericton NB March 8, 2000	Montreal QC March 9, 2000	Halifax NS March 13, 2000
	Quebec City QC March 15, 2000	

Canadians wishing to pre-register for the consultation meetings or obtain additional information on the review should contact:

Ghislaine Kerry
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
200 Boulevard Sacré-Coeur
Hull, Quebec K1A 0H3
Tel: (819) 953-0179 and call collect
Fax: (819) 953-8592
E-mail: ghislaine.kerry@ceaa.gc.ca

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Additional information on the **Agency**, the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, the **discussion paper** and **cross-Canada consultation sessions** can be found on the Agency's web site at: www.ceaa.gc.ca. Or call:

Jim Clarke
Director
Legislative and Regulatory Affairs
(819) 997-2253

John Fraser
Press Secretary to the Minister of
Environment
(819) 953-0735

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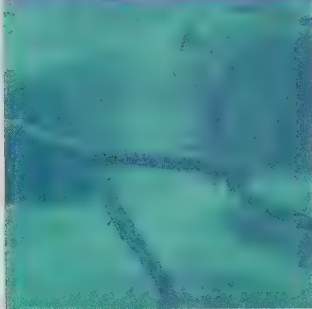
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EP150
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REVIEW OF THE CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT

A discussion paper for public consultation



December 1999



Canada





The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act

Since 1995...

- **More than 25,000 federal environmental assessments have been conducted, 99% of which were at the screening level.**
- **46 proposed projects have undergone a comprehensive study (23 of these studies were still under way at the end of 1999).**
- **Five projects have undergone full review by a panel and another four panel reviews were under way at the end of 1999.**

To help promote a healthy environment and economy through sustainable development, the Government of Canada proclaimed the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* in January 1995.

The Act requires that the environmental effects of a project receive careful consideration early in the project cycle, and provides opportunities for the public to participate in the environmental assessment process.

Together with its regulations, the Act applies to projects for which the federal government has decision-making authority – whether it is a proponent, land manager, the source of funding or the regulator.

Section 72(1) of the Act calls for “a comprehensive review of the provisions and operation” to be undertaken by the Minister of Environment five years after its coming into force.

The review will comprise several elements, including an interactive web site to provide information effectively and obtain the views of all citizens in urban and rural Canada and national public consultations in 19 centres across Canada.

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency reports to the Minister of Environment, but operates independently of all federal departments and other agencies, including Environment Canada.

Review consultations

In preparation for the first full review of the Act, the Minister of Environment has released a discussion paper for consultation purposes. It can be accessed through the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency's interactive web site: www.ceaa.gc.ca or by calling the Agency collect at: (819) 953-0179.

The consultation sessions will be held starting January 31 through to March 15, 2000. The public consultations will be conducted, facilitated and reported on by an independent consultant.

These public consultation sessions will provide individuals and organizations with an opportunity to have their say on the future of the Act and its accompanying regulations and policies.

Meetings are open to interested members of the general public, as well as industry associations, environmental organizations, Aboriginal groups, and all levels of government. Sessions will be held in the following 19 cities.

Ottawa ON	Victoria BC
January 31, 2000	February 1, 2000
Vancouver BC	Calgary AB
February 2, 2000	February 4, 2000
Edmonton AB	Whitehorse YT
February 7, 2000	February 9, 2000
Yellowknife NT	Iqaluit NT
February 15, 2000	February 17, 2000
Thunder Bay ON	Toronto ON
February 21, 2000	February 22, 2000
Regina SK	Saskatoon SK
February 28, 2000	February 29, 2000
Winnipeg MB	Charlottetown PE
March 2, 2000	March 6, 2000
St. John's NF	Fredericton NB
March 7, 2000	March 8, 2000
Montreal QC	Halifax NS
March 9, 2000	March 13, 2000
Quebec City QC	
March 15, 2000	

NOTE: Please consult the Agency's web site (www.ceaa.gc.ca) or call collect at (819) 953-0179 to check for any unforeseen changes to this schedule and for additional information on the consultation sessions and their locations.

What will be discussed?

Review of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act: A Discussion Paper for Public Consultation distills background studies as well as input from federal departments, the provinces/territories, Aboriginal and environmental organizations, and industry associations regarding their experience with the Act.

This paper is intended to serve as the basis for a broad public consultation exercise on how best to improve the Act, implement efficiencies, and clarify areas that may be seen as unnecessarily complex. All concerns and suggestions about the Act and its operation will be heard and considered.

Comments and recommendations to be considered at the upcoming consultation sessions have been grouped under three main themes.

- **Refining the environmental assessment process to make it more predictable, consistent and timely.**
- **Finding ways to further improve the quality of environmental assessments.**
- **Strengthening opportunities for participation and expanding access to environmental assessment information.**

The consultation sessions are open to any Canadian wishing to make a presentation. Pre-registration is encouraged. Alternatively, Canadians may submit their comments to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency by letter, facsimile or via the Internet by March 31, 2000.

We'd Like to hear your views!

To pre-register or to obtain additional information on the review please contact:

Ghislaine Kerry

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency

200 Sacré-Cœur Boulevard

Hull, Quebec K1A 0H3

Tel.: (819) 953-0179 and call collect

Fax : (819) 953-8592

E-mail: ghislaine.kerry@ceaa.gc.ca

What is environmental assessment?

Environmental assessment is a planning tool used to identify the possible effects of development projects on the environment, including our air, water, land and living organisms. By eliminating or reducing environmentally detrimental effects early in the project cycle, expensive corrective action can be avoided and the environment is protected.

The practice of environmental assessment is a cornerstone of the Government of Canada's policy to promote sustainable development, avoid significant environmental problems, and provide opportunities for public participation in the planning of projects involving the federal government. It has become an integral part of public decision-making at all levels of government in Canada.

Environmental assessment is also practised worldwide in more than 100 countries and by many international organizations and funding agencies.

What has the Act achieved?

Since it came into force in January 1995, the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* has helped to:

- achieve sustainable development through the reduction of adverse effects of new projects and activities on our environment;
- provide interested individuals and organizations with opportunities to influence decisions on projects that may affect them; and
- ensure that under the principle of self-assessment, the environment has become the responsibility of every department in the federal government.

La Loi canadienne sur l'évaluation environnementale

Depuis 1995...

- **plus de 25 000 évaluations environnementales fédérales ont été menées, dont 99 % se situaient au premier niveau soit l'examen préalable**
- **46 projets proposés ont été assujettis à un examen plus poussé ou à une étude approfondie (23 de ces études étaient toujours en cours à la fin de l'année 1999).**
- **Cinq projets ont fait l'objet d'un examen par une commission indépendante. Quatre autres examens par une commission étaient en cours à la fin de l'année 1999.**

En janvier 1995, le gouvernement du Canada a proclamé la *Loi canadienne sur l'évaluation environnementale* afin de promouvoir un environnement et une économie sains grâce au développement durable.

La Loi exige que les effets environnementaux d'un projet soient pris en compte au début du cycle du projet et elle offre des occasions au public de participer au processus d'évaluation environnementale.

La Loi ainsi que ses règlements s'appliquent aux projets pour lesquels le gouvernement a le pouvoir de décision, qu'il soit promoteur, gestionnaire territorial, source de financement ou organisme de réglementation.

Le paragraphe 72(1) de la Loi exige qu'« un examen complet des dispositions et de l'application de la Loi » soit entrepris par le ministre de l'Environnement cinq ans après l'entrée en vigueur de celle-ci.

L'examen comportera plusieurs éléments, y compris un site Web interactif afin de fournir de l'information, recueillir les points de vue de tous les citoyens intéressés du Canada urbain et rural et tenir des consultations publiques nationales en 19 villes à travers le Canada.

L'Agence canadienne d'évaluation environnementale relève du ministre de l'Environnement, mais elle est indépendante de tous les ministères et organismes fédéraux, y compris Environnement Canada.

Consultations sur l'examen

En vue du premier examen complet de la Loi, le ministre de l'Environnement a publié le « document de travail aux fins de consultation publique ». On peut y avoir accès sur le site Web interactif de l'Agence canadienne d'évaluation environnementale : www.acee.gc.ca ou en appelant l'Agence à frais virés au : (819) 953-0179.

Les séances de consultation auront lieu du 31 janvier jusqu'au 17 mars 2000. Les consultations publiques seront menées et animées par un expert-conseil indépendant qui fera un rapport sur celles-ci.

Ces séances de consultation publique offriront aux personnes et aux organismes intéressés l'occasion de s'exprimer concernant l'avenir de la Loi, de ses règlements et de ses politiques.

Ces réunions sont ouvertes aux membres intéressés du grand public ainsi qu'aux associations industrielles, aux organismes environnementaux, aux groupes autochtones et à d'autres ordres de gouvernement. Des séances auront lieu dans les 19 villes suivantes :

Ottawa ON	Victoria BC
Le 31 janvier 2000	Le 1er février 2000
Vancouver BC	Calgary AB
Le 2 février 2000	Le 4 février 2000
Edmonton AB	Whitehorse YT
Le 7 février 2000	Le 9 février 2000
Yellowknife NT	Iqaluit NT
Le 15 février 2000	Le 17 février 2000
Thunder Bay ON	Toronto ON
Le 21 février 2000	Le 22 février 2000
Regina SK	Saskatoon SK
Le 28 février 2000	Le 29 février 2000
Winnipeg MB	Charlottetown PE
Le 2 mars 2000	Le 6 mars 2000
St. John's NF	Fredericton NB
Le 7 mars 2000	Le 8 mars 2000
Montréal QC	Halifax NS
Le 9 mars 2000	Le 13 mars 2000
Québec QC	
Le 15 mars 2000	

NOTE : Veuillez consulter le site Web de l'Agence (www.acee.gc.ca) ou appeler à frais virés au (819) 953-0179 afin de vérifier tout changement imprévu apporté à cet horaire et d'obtenir des renseignements supplémentaires sur les séances de consultation ainsi que leur emplacement.

EXAMEN DE LA LOI CANADIENNE SUR L'ÉVALUATION ENVIRONNEMENTALE

De quoi discutera-t-on?

Un examen de la Loi canadienne sur l'évaluation environnementale : document de travail aux fins de consultation publique résume les études de fond et les données des ministères fédéraux, provinces/territoires, organismes autochtones, organismes environnementaux et associations industrielles concernant leur expérience de la Loi.

Ce document est conçu pour servir de base à des consultations publiques sur la meilleure façon d'améliorer la Loi, de mettre en oeuvre son bon fonctionnement et de clarifier des domaines qui peuvent paraître inutilement complexes. Toutes les préoccupations et les suggestions relatives à la Loi et à ses modalités d'application seront entendues et prises en compte.

Les observations et les recommandations qui seront prises en compte lors des séances de consultation à venir ont été regroupées en trois thèmes principaux :

- **Peaufiner le processus d'évaluation environnementale pour le rendre plus prévisible, plus cohérent et plus opportun**
- **Trouver des moyens d'améliorer encore davantage la qualité des évaluations environnementales**
- **Augmenter les occasions de participation et l'accès à l'information sur les évaluations environnementales**

Les séances de consultation sont ouvertes à tout Canadien souhaitant faire une présentation. On recommande de vous inscrire à l'avance. Les Canadiens peuvent également soumettre leurs observations à l'Agence canadienne d'évaluation environnementale par lettre, par télécopieur ou par le site Web interactif de l'Agence avant le 31 mars 2000.

Nous aimerions connaître vos points de vue!

Pour vous inscrire à l'avance ou pour obtenir de l'information supplémentaire sur l'examen, veuillez communiquer avec :

Ghislaine Kerry
Agence canadienne d'évaluation environnementale
200, boulevard Sacré-Cœur
Hull (Québec) K1A 0H3
Tél. : (819) 953-0179 (appels à frais virés acceptés)
Télécopieur : (819) 953-8592
Courriel : ghislaine.kerry@acee.gc.ca

Qu'est-ce que l'évaluation environnementale?

L'évaluation environnementale est un outil de planification servant à déterminer les effets négatifs possibles de projets de développement sur notre environnement, y compris l'air, l'eau, la terre et les organismes vivants. En éliminant ou en réduisant ces effets au début du cycle d'un projet, des mesures correctrices onéreuses peuvent être évitées et l'environnement est protégé.

La pratique de l'évaluation environnementale est une pierre angulaire de la politique du gouvernement du Canada pour promouvoir le développement durable, éviter des problèmes environnementaux importants et offrir des occasions au public de participer à la planification de projets auxquels le gouvernement fédéral prend part. Elle est partie intégrante de la prise de décision à tous les paliers de gouvernements au Canada.

L'évaluation environnementale est également pratiquée à l'échelle mondiale dans plus de 100 pays ainsi que par de nombreux organismes de financement internationaux et organisations internationales.

Quelles sont les réalisations de la Loi?

Depuis son entrée en vigueur en janvier 1995, la Loi canadienne sur l'évaluation environnementale a contribué à :

- **atteindre le développement durable en réduisant les effets négatifs sur notre environnement de nouveaux projets et activités;**
- **offrir aux personnes et aux organismes intéressés des occasions d'influencer des décisions visant des projets qui peuvent les toucher;**
- **assurer qu'en vertu du principe d'autoévaluation, l'environnement devienne la responsabilité de chaque ministère du gouvernement fédéral.**



Agence canadienne
d'évaluation environnementale

Canadian Environmental
Assessment Agency

EXAMEN DE LA LOI CANADIENNE SUR L'ÉVALUATION ENVIRONNEMENTALE

**Document de travail aux fins
de consultation publique**



Décembre 1999



Canada



